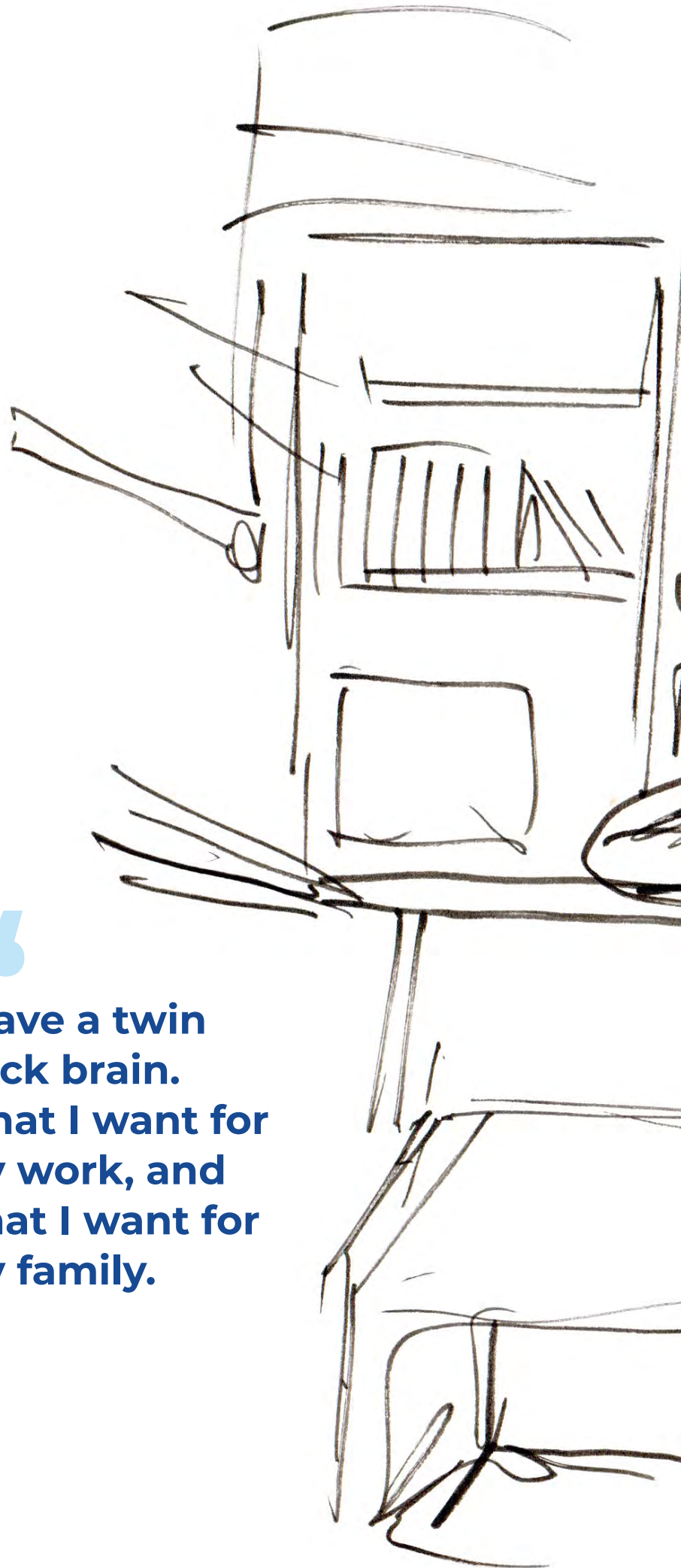




OLIVIA

Olivia has always been a researcher, straight from finishing her undergraduate degree. After 20 years on contracts dependent on external funding, she has just started a permanent position. She has a real love for her work, has been called a 'workaholic' and has burnt out a couple of times in the past. Since she had children, things have changed a bit. But she still works long hours – sacrificing sleep to make sure everything gets done.

Olivia sees her own time as being undisturbed doing research alone or having time 'sitting on the landing' browsing her files and piles of reading. Olivia tells us of how she learned to negotiate time and permission to apply for research grants when on 'soft money' research contracts. Now she has an open-ended contract Olivia feels she has more 'breathing space' to write up research without constantly thinking about applying for the next grant in her own time. She still keeps her work with her all the time: for example, she does marking by the pool while the kids are at swimming lessons on a Saturday morning. But she doesn't mind spending her weekend this way.



I have a twin track brain. What I want for my work, and what I want for my family.



this is where I used to work

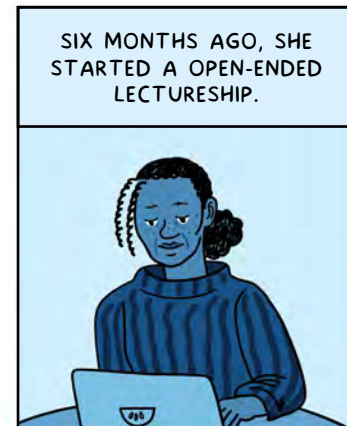
Kid room

"he's making fun of me!"

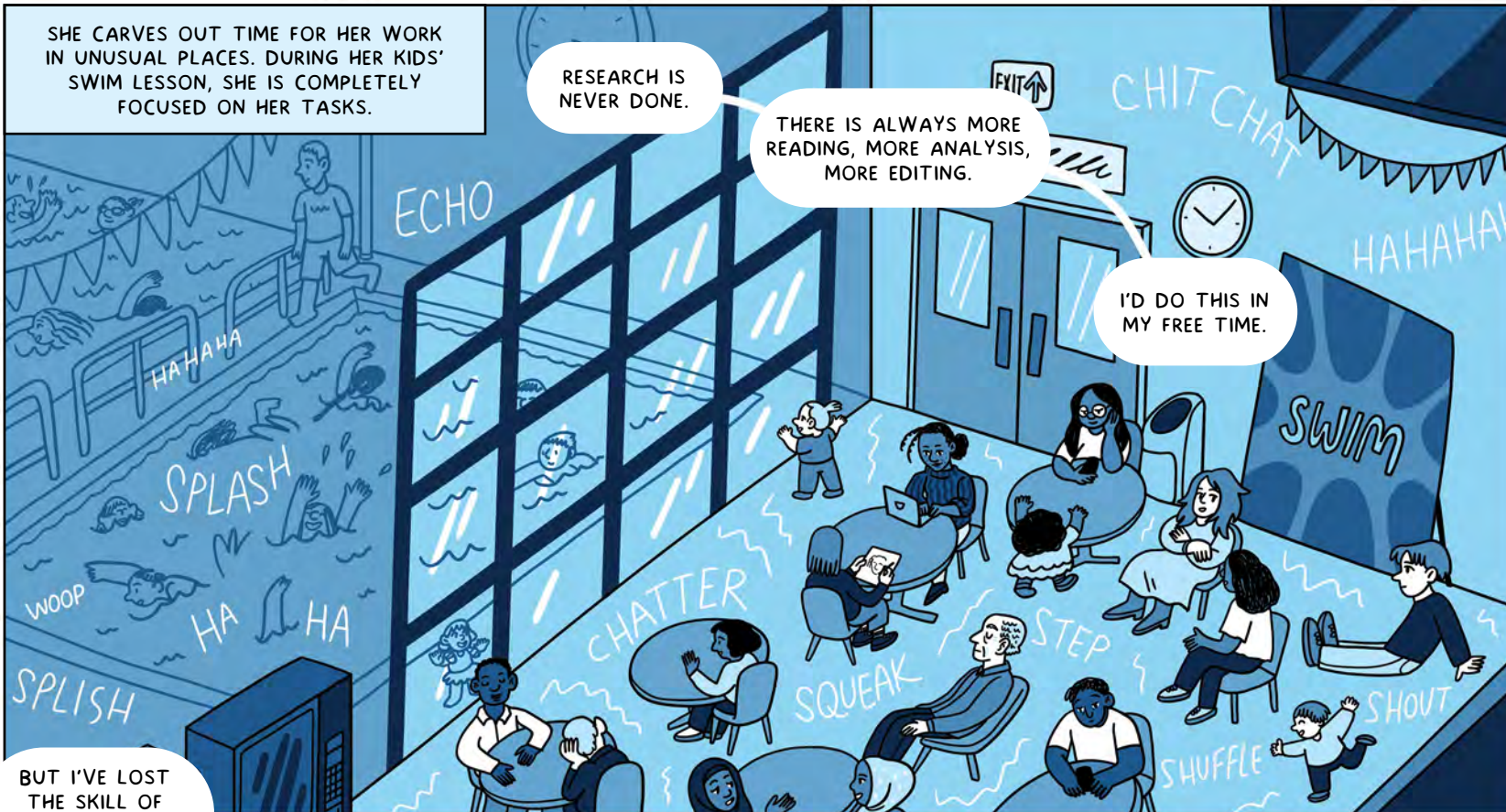
Kid sounds

Stairs

Surrendering to the NOISE



SHE CARVES OUT TIME FOR HER WORK IN UNUSUAL PLACES. DURING HER KIDS' SWIM LESSON, SHE IS COMPLETELY FOCUSED ON HER TASKS.

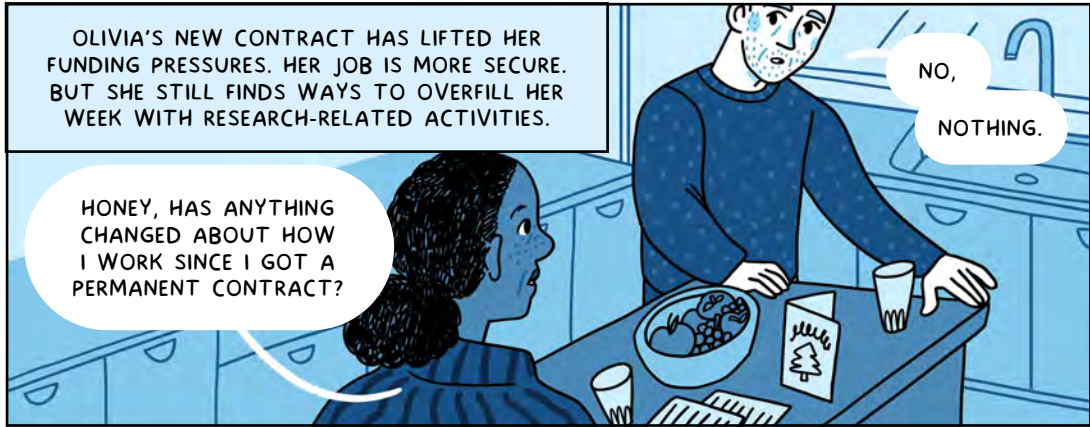


BUT I'VE LOST THE SKILL OF JUST BEING A MUM.





I DEFAULT TO READING SOMETHING RELATED TO WORK IN MY FREE TIME.



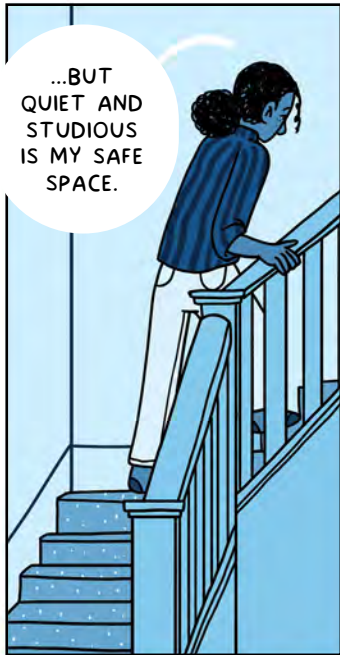
OLIVIA'S NEW CONTRACT HAS LIFTED HER FUNDING PRESSURES. HER JOB IS MORE SECURE. BUT SHE STILL FINDS WAYS TO OVERFILL HER WEEK WITH RESEARCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES.

NO, NOTHING.

HONEY, HAS ANYTHING CHANGED ABOUT HOW I WORK SINCE I GOT A PERMANENT CONTRACT?



I LOVE BEING A MUM AND MY FAMILY IS BEAUTIFUL...



...BUT QUIET AND STUDIOUS IS MY SAFE SPACE.



FOR ME, MY OWN TIME IS THE TIME SPENT IN SOLITUDE.

MY TRUE CALLING IS A MONK.



IT'S ABOUT BALANCE, HONOURING WHO I AM, AND ALSO EMBRACING THE GIFT OF THE KIDS...

STOP IT!

NO FAIR!

She's MAKING FUN of me!

ugh you're so ANNOYING mmmmm

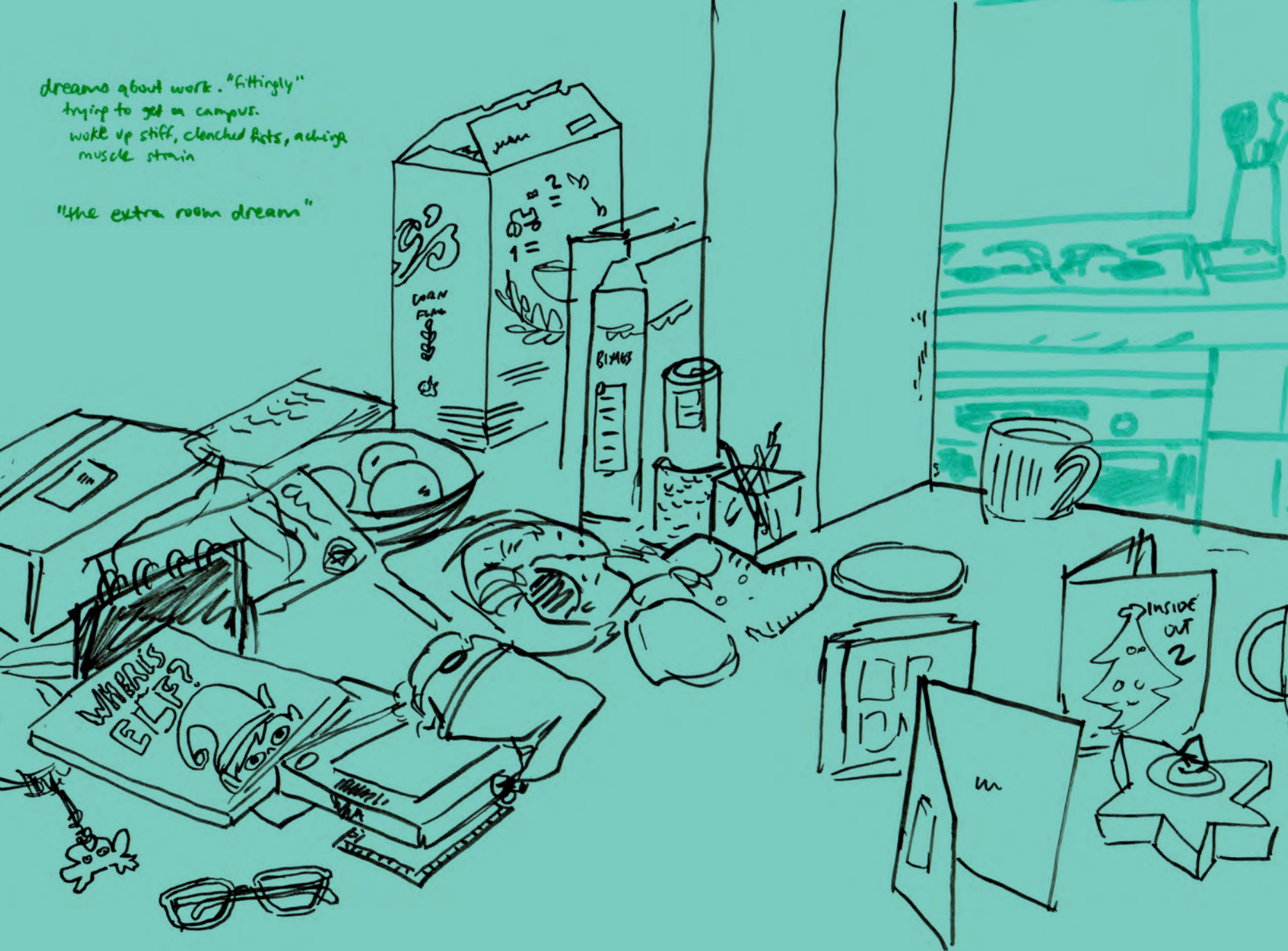


...AND THE NOISE AROUND IT.



dreams about work. "fittingly"
trying to get on campus.
wake up stiff, clenched fists, aching
muscle strain

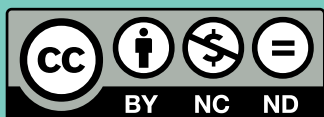
"the extra room dream"



IN THEIR OWN TIME

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Illustrations and comics by Maria Stoian.
Website text by Dr Cécile Ménard, Dr Lena
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Every year I panic – will
I have a job next year?